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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,683	04/27/2001	Kazuharu Maeda	010589	9047
38834	7590	01/12/2005	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			WASSUM, LUKE S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/842,683	MAEDA ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Luke S. Wassum	2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 6-26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-11 and 21-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 12-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 April 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The Invention

1. The claimed invention is a system for allowing a user to prepare a parts check list.

Response to Amendment

2. The Applicants' amendment, filed 16 September 2004, has been received, entered into the record, and considered.

3. As a result of the amendment, claims 1-5 have been cancelled. Claims 6-26 remain pending in the application.

Election/Restrictions

4. The Applicants' election without traverse of the claims of Group III (claims 12-20) is acknowledged.

5. Claims 6-11 and 21-26 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on 16 September 2004.

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any

amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

In this case, the subject matter of the elected claims corresponds to Japanese Patent Application JP 2000-132386, having the following three inventors *only*: Kazuharu Maeda, Susumu Takahashi and Toshio Abe.

Priority

7. The Applicants' claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to Japanese Patent Applications JP 2000-132386, filed 1 May 2000, JP 2000-143486, filed 16 May 2000, JP 2000-200849, filed 7 July 2000, and JP 2000-209874, filed 11 July 2000, is acknowledged. The priority papers filed under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) supporting the Applicants' claim to foreign priority have been received and entered into the record.

8. The subject matter of the elected claims (12-20) corresponds only to Japanese Patent Application JP 2000-132386. As such, the priority date established for this application is 1 May 2000.

Claim Objections

9. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities:

The claim contains an extraneous comma in the preamble after 'the network server' before 'comprising'.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

10. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

11. Claims 12, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The language of the claims raises a question as to whether the claims are directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

13. Claims 12, 13, 15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Costello et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0007225).

14. Regarding claim 12, Costello et al. teaches a parts check list preparing system as claimed, comprising:

- a) a means to store a database comprising the graphics data of a layout of a part, and the parts data of the part (see disclosure that the system includes a database comprising detailed parts data, the detailed data identifying each part by providing a series of linked schematic representations of the selected assemblies and any subassemblies and respective parts, paragraph [0088] and database 300 in Figure 8);
- b) a means to fetch the graphics data of a part necessary for preparing a parts check list (see disclosure that the technical documents, including parts catalogs, are retrieved, paragraphs [0069]-[0076], and particularly paragraph [0076]);
- c) a means to cause a layout reproduced from the graphics data of the part to be presented on display (see disclosure of the display of graphical reproductions of parts and assemblies, paragraph [0090] and Figure 10);
- d) a means to select the part in the layout (see disclosure that parts can be selected from the schematic diagrams, paragraphs [0011]-[0012]);
- e) a means to fetch the parts data corresponding with the graphics data of the selected part from the database (see disclosure of selection of parts through visual navigation of the schematic diagrams, paragraph [0046]);
- f) a means to arrange the parts data into a list, and to cause the list to be presented on display together with the layout (see disclosure that detailed replacement part data is retrieved based upon selection of specific parts in schematic diagrams, paragraph [0012]; see also disclosure of the parts ordering module, paragraphs [0010], [0046] and [0061]); and

g) a means to automatically prepare the parts check list based on the parts list (see disclosure of the parts ordering and parts tracking system, paragraphs [0028]; see also disclosure of the parts ordering module, paragraphs [0010], [0046] and [0061]).

15. Regarding claim 19, **Costello et al.** teaches a parts check list preparing system as claimed, comprising the steps of:

- a) in addition to fetching the graphics data of a part necessary for preparing a parts checklist from a database comprising the graphics data of parts and the parts data thereof, causing a display device to present a layout based on said graphics data on display (see disclosure that the technical documents, including parts catalogs, are retrieved, paragraphs [0069]-[0076], and particularly paragraph [0076]; see also disclosure of the display of graphical reproductions of parts and assemblies, paragraph [0090] and Figure 10);
- b) after selecting the part in the layout on display, fetching the parts data corresponding with the graphics data of the selected part from the database (see disclosure of selection of parts through visual navigation of the schematic diagrams, paragraph [0046]);
- c) arranging the acquired parts data into a list and causing the display device to present the list together with the layout (see disclosure that detailed replacement part data is retrieved based upon selection of specific parts in schematic diagrams, paragraph [0012]; see also disclosure of the parts ordering module, paragraphs [0010], [0046] and [0061]); and

d) automatically preparing a parts check list based on the parts list (see disclosure of the parts ordering and parts tracking system, paragraphs [0028]; see also disclosure of the parts ordering module, paragraphs [0010], [0046] and [0061]).

16. Regarding claim 13, **Costello et al.** additionally teaches a parts check list preparing system comprising a network server and a network terminal connected with each other via a network (see paragraph [0025], the network server comprising:

- a) a server's memory means to store the title of layouts of parts, the graphics data of the layouts, and the parts data of those parts (see disclosure of the repair information vault, paragraph [0044]);
- b) a layout title acquiring means to acquire the title of a layout arbitrarily chosen by the network terminal (see disclosure of the repair information vault, paragraph [0044]);
- c) an information searching means to search through the server's memory means for the graphics data corresponding with the acquired title of the layout, and the parts data of the part reproduced from the graphics data of the layout title (see disclosure of the repair information vault, paragraph [0044]); and
- d) an output delivering means to deliver, as output, the searched graphics data and parts data to the network terminal, and to cause the display device of the network terminal to present the layout reproduced from the graphics data (see disclosure of the display of graphical reproductions of parts and assemblies, paragraph [0090] and Figure 10);

and the network terminal comprising:

- e) a terminal's memory means to store the graphics data and parts data provided from the layout displayed on the terminal's display device (see disclosure that the system includes a database comprising detailed parts data, the detailed data identifying each part by providing a series of linked schematic representations of the selected assemblies and any subassemblies and respective parts, paragraph [0088] and database 300 in Figure 8; see also disclosure that the technical documents, including parts catalogs, are retrieved, paragraphs [0069]-[0076], and particularly paragraph [0076]);
- f) a layout data acquiring means to acquire the graphics data of a part selected from the layout displayed on the terminal's display device (see disclosure of selection of parts through visual navigation of the schematic diagrams, paragraph [0046]);
- g) a parts list preparing means to search through the terminal's memory means for the parts data corresponding with the graphics data just acquired (see disclosure that detailed replacement part data is retrieved based upon selection of specific parts in schematic diagrams, paragraph [0012]; see also disclosure of the parts ordering module, paragraphs [0010], [0046] and [0061]);
- h) a parts list delivering means to deliver the parts data thus acquired to the display device and to insert the parts data into the parts list displayed together with the layout (see disclosure that detailed replacement part data is retrieved based upon selection of specific parts in schematic diagrams, paragraph [0012]; see also disclosure of the parts ordering module, paragraphs [0010], [0046] and [0061]); and
- i) a parts check list preparing means to prepare a parts check list based on the part data in the parts list (see disclosure of the parts ordering and parts tracking system,

paragraphs [0028]; see also disclosure of the parts ordering module, paragraphs [0010], [0046] and [0061]).

17. Regarding claim 15, **Costello et al.** additionally teaches a parts check list preparing system wherein the server's memory means stores a price table containing price data of each part (see disclosure that the cost of the part is maintained, in claim 18), and a storage table containing a storage data of each part (see disclosure of the availability of a part, paragraph [0046]), and wherein the network server comprises a response preparing means which searches through the price table and storage table for the price data and storage data of the parts listed in the parts check list and makes the parts check list reflect the search result (see disclosure of the parts ordering module, paragraphs [0010], [0046] and [0061]).

18. Regarding claim 18, **Costello et al.** additionally teaches a parts check list preparing system wherein the part is a constitutive element of a construction machine (see disclosure that the system can be used for any type of equipment, such as trucks, ships, off-road vehicles, airplanes, etc., paragraph [0025]).

19. Regarding claim 20, **Costello et al.** additionally teaches a parts check list preparing system embodied in a computer program (see paragraph [0002]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

20. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

21. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

22. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

23. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Costello et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0007225) as applied to claims 12, 13, 15 and 18-20 above, and further in view of **Joseph et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,606,603).

24. Regarding claim 14, **Costello et al.** teaches a parts check list preparing system substantially as claimed.

Costello et al. does not explicitly teach a parts check list preparing system wherein duplicate selected parts are removed from the parts list.

Joseph et al., however, teaches a system wherein the execution of duplicate orders is prevented (see col. 7, lines 3-13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to prevent the execution of duplicate orders, since this would result in the customer receiving duplicate items, resulting in the need to return the duplicate item, and increased costs and loss of customer goodwill.

25. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Costello et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0007225) as applied to claims 12, 13, 15 and 18-20 above, and further in view of **Rune** (U.S. Patent 6,304,913).

26. Regarding claim 16, **Costello et al.** teaches a parts check list preparing system substantially as claimed.

Costello et al. does not explicitly teach a parts check list preparing system wherein at least two servers different in communications distances to the network terminal are introduced, wherein the network terminal gains access to a network server shorter in communications distance.

Rune, however, teaches a system wherein at least two servers different in communications distances to the network terminal are introduced, wherein the network terminal gains access to a network server shorter in communications distance (see col. 2, lines 7-12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to access the network server with the shorter communications distance, since this would improve response times (see col. 1, lines 54-57).

27. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Costello et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0007225) and **Rune** (U.S. Patent 6,304,913) as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of **Gladney et al.** (U.S. Patent 4,714,992)

28. Regarding claim 17, **Costello et al.** and **Rune** teach a parts check list preparing system substantially as claimed.

Neither **Costello et al.** nor **Rune** explicitly teach a parts check list preparing system wherein the network server shorter in communication distance checks whether or not any alteration is introduced in the graphics data and/or parts data stored in the network server longer in communications distance and wherein it updates its own graphics data and/or parts data in accordance with the alteration whenever it finds an alteration is introduced.

Gladney et al., however, teaches a system wherein a database is replicated to one or more replicas, and obsolescence of the replicas is managed by having the replica locations submit requests to the source location for ascertaining obsolescence of the data objects, and wherein the source location transmits up-to-date data objects to the replica having obsolete data objects (see col. 2, lines 49-66).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to synchronize data between a server and any replicas, since without a means of synchronization the data contained in any replicas would diverge from that of the server, thus providing incorrect data to requesting users.

Conclusion

29. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Inoue (U.S. Patent 5,317,503) teaches a system for calculating a repair cost of a damaged car.

Schreitmueller et al. (U.S. Patent 5,839,112) teaches a method for displaying and selecting vehicle parts.

Moore (U.S. Patent 5,877,961) teaches an electronic support system including an electronic work station.

Schreitmueller et al. (U.S. Patent 6,185,540) teaches a method for displaying and selecting vehicle parts.

Fujieda et al. (U.S. Patent 6,557,002) teaches a data management system for storing structural element data.

Goto et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0026383) teaches an order placing server and an order receiving server.

McCloskey et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0026385) teaches a method to select a part from a CAD display.

Fukuda et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0038262) teaches a parts-maintenance materials retrieving system.

Goldsmith et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0046174) teaches an on-site e-commerce parts ordering system.

Callahan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0019534) teaches a method for purchasing a replacement part for a product.

Ikeda et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0138967) teaches a maintenance management system.

Baumann et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0243483) teaches a mechanical engineering web portal.

Sato (Japanese Patent JP404205061A) teaches a part list retrieval system.

Costello et al. (Specification of U.S. Provisional Application 60/198562) teaches a method for graphically identifying replacement parts for generally complex equipment.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luke S. Wassum whose telephone number is 571-272-4119. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

In addition, INFORMAL or DRAFT communications may be faxed directly to the examiner at 571-273-4119.

Customer Service for Tech Center 2100 can be reached during regular business hours at (571) 272-2100, or fax (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2167

lsw
10 January 2005